

New law establishes the La. Sustainable Local Food Policy Council within the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry for the purpose of building a sustainable local food economy that will create jobs, stimulate economic development, protect the environment and preserve open spaces, increase consumer access to fresh and nutritious foods, and provide greater food security.

New law provides for the membership of the council as follows:

- (1) The commissioner of agriculture and forestry or his designee.
- (2) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker.
- (3) A member of the Senate appointed by the senate president.
- (4) The state superintendent of education or his designee.
- (5) The secretary of DHH or his designee.
- (6) The secretary of DED or his designee.
- (7) The secretary of DWF or his designee.
- (8) The president of the La. Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., or his designee.
- (9) Three local food producers, at least one of whom shall be a sustainable local food producer, appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (10) One representative of a food bank located in La. appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (11) One representative of the LSU AgCenter appointed by the chancellor of the LSU AgCenter.
- (12) One representative of the SU AgCenter appointed by the chancellor of the SU AgCenter.
- (13) One representative of the La. Cooperative Extension Service appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (14) One registered dietician appointed by La. Dietetics Association.
- (15) One representative of a business specializing in retail or direct food sales appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (16) One representative of a farmers market management organization appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (17) The director of the Prevention Research Center at Tulane University or his designee.
- (18) One representative of a financial institution providing financing to local food producers appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (19) One commercial fisherman appointed by the commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (20) One representative of the La. Meat Processors' Association appointed by the president of the association.

New law provides that the chair be appointed by the commissioner, and any other officers be elected by the council membership. Further provides that the commissioner shall call the first meeting of the task force no later than Dec. 1, 2010.

New law provides that the members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authorities, and vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment.

New law provides that in developing sustainable local food policies, the council may consider the following issues:

- (1) An assessment of the foods served to public school students under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, including the possibility of increasing the amount of sustainable local food used in these programs.
- (2) An analysis of the possibility of making sustainable local food available under public assistance programs, including the possibility of food stamp use at local farmers markets.
- (3) An analysis of the potential of promoting urban and backyard gardens for the purpose of improving the health of citizens, making use of idle urban property, and lowering food costs.
- (4) An evaluation of the potential impacts that the production of sustainable local food would have on economic development, both direct and indirect impacts.
- (5) Identification of local and regional efforts that could provide training programs to assist entrepreneurs and local farmers pursuing opportunities related to a sustainable local food economy.
- (6) Issues regarding the identification and development of solutions to regulatory and policy barriers to developing a strong sustainable local food economy.
- (7) Issues regarding strengthening local infrastructure and entrepreneurial efforts related to a sustainable local food economy.
- (8) Any strategies, initiatives, or policy issues that the council deems necessary in carrying out its duties.

New law provides for the council to report its findings, recommendations, or proposals to the legislature and the commissioner of agriculture and forestry no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2012 R.S.

New law provides for placement of the council within the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry and allows the council to solicit, receive, and expend funds as authorized.

New law provides for the termination of the task force on June 30, 2012.

Effective August 15, 2010.

(Adds R.S. 3:299 and R.S. 36:629(M) and 919.10)